

**HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 6, 2005  
**TO:** District Policy Committee Members  
**FROM:** Jeffrey W. Aluotto, Solid Waste Manager  
Cory R. Chadwick, Director

**I. Introduction/Opening Comments**

**NOTICE:** This memo is for the meeting to be held on May 12, 2005. This meeting will be held at 2:00 pm at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

*Policy Committee Information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) now available on the District's Website at [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).*

**II. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the March 10 and April 6, 2005 Policy Committee meetings are included as Attachment A.**

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

Please contact Susan Schumacher at 513-946-7734 or [susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org](mailto:susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org) if you have items to add to the agenda.

**III. District Revenue Updates/Analysis**

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with prior years, as included in Attachment B.

**IV. Policy Items**

**A. District Plan Update**

District staff submitted a draft of the Plan Update, to OEPA, on April 18, 2005. The draft, to a large extent, is simply a compilation of the decisions made by the Policy Committee during its work sessions. There is, however, a great deal of material and data included in the Plan which the Committee did not discuss directly.

District staff will be using this portion of the agenda to provide a brief overview of the Plan Update. This will include a presentation of some of the most recent waste generation and recycling data as well as a summary of program changes and fee requirements.

OEPA is required to have a non-binding advisory opinion back to the District within 45 days of submitting the draft. From there, the District can make corrections and alterations in preparation for sending the Plan out for ratification in early 2006. The final Plan is due to OEPA in June of 2006.

***Staff Recommendation:** There is no specific staff recommendation for this item. However, the Policy Committee will have the opportunity to provide further input in order to make adjustments to the current draft.*

## **B. Host Community Fee**

The Policy Committee will have the opportunity to continue its discussion relating to Mr. Fiedeldey's suggestion that the District support a legislative amendment which would increase the compensation for communities hosting a solid waste landfill. Included as Attachment C is the District staff analysis performed on this issue.

## **C. Computer Collections**

The District is preparing for its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Computer Collection Event which will take place on June 4-11. While this program continues to grow more successful in terms of the amount of equipment collected, District staff feels that events in future years should be altered to limit the amount of equipment any one participant can bring. The reasoning behind proposing this change is two-fold:

1. There is an existing private and non-profit network of operations performing computer recycling and reuse as their primary business in Hamilton County. The District has received initial indication that the large collection events are eroding the customer base, and siphoning business from, these other organizations.
2. As the amount of equipment collected continues to double each year, it will be increasingly difficult for the District to budget for these events while still maintaining the desired funding level for other programs.

As a result of these issues, District staff is submitting an initial recommendation that would limit the amount of computer equipment which any one participant could bring to its events. If approved by the Policy Committee, staff will develop a more detailed guideline relating to this policy for implementation in 2006.

The greatest impact of this new policy would be on large commercial generators, schools, etc. However, one of the District's guiding principals has always been not to interfere with the private sector's ability to provide these services. When the District first began performing computer collections, this infrastructure was basically non-existent. Since then, however, numerous organizations have started business in Hamilton County, either refurbishing or de-manufacturing computer equipment. These organizations vary in terms of their mission and operations as well as on variables such as capacity and whether or not they charge. So it can be clearly stated that generators of computer waste in Hamilton County do not face a shortage of choices in terms of managing their equipment.

District staff feels that there will always be a place for District sponsored collections – especially as a tool for raising awareness. The District, however, should not be in the business of recycling computers to the detriment of a growing Hamilton County industry.

***Staff Recommendation:** District staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve the conceptual idea of limiting the quantity of material accepted at future collection events. District staff will provide the Committee with a more detailed plan for doing so at a future meeting.*

## **V. Information/Discussion Items**

### **A. Yardwaste Drop-off Site Update**

District staff will provide an update on the first-month participation in the yardwaste drop-off sites as well as an update on the zoning issue in Anderson Township. A copy of the correspondence which was sent to the Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals is included as Attachment D.

### **B. Household Hazardous Waste Program**

The District kicked-off its 2005 HHW Program on May 3. Staff will provide a summary of participation to date.

### **C. State Budget**

Following the District's last Policy Committee meeting relating to the State Budget Bill, Staff forwarded the Policy Committee's recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board proceeded to give approval to District staff corresponding with the legislature on this issue.

The Bill, HB 66, has since moved to the Senate. The House has taken initial positive action by reducing the amount of the tipping fee increase to \$1.50 (from \$2.75). Additional fees would be applied to tires and construction and demolition debris. This is roughly consistent with the recommendation provided by the Policy Committee (with the exception of applying the fee to tires). Staff will update the Committee on any further developments as it relates to this Bill and on any communications with the legislature on this issue.

### **D. Policy Committee Retreat**

At previous meetings, the Policy Committee has discussed organizing a board retreat. Staff will provide an update on the scheduling options for that event.

## **VI. Tentative Future Agenda Items**

## **VII. Policy Committee Members' Comments**

## **VIII. Public Comments**

**IX. Upcoming District Meetings**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2005 at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road.

**X. Adjournment (Target Time: 3:30 pm)**